

ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6477 of September 23, 1992

National Farm-City Week, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The tremendous productivity of America's farms has been a great blessing to this Nation and to millions of people around the world. As our leading industry, agriculture has fueled America's strength and progress while, at the same time, making the United States the world's largest exporter of food products and its most generous provider of food aid. The week that ends on Thanksgiving is, therefore, a fitting time to salute our farmers and all those Americans who work in partnership with them to bring the Lord's bounty from the fields to our families' tables.

While the United States enjoys a wealth of God-given resources, from hospitable climates to rich, fertile soils, the key to our agricultural productivity is the ingenuity and skill of our farmers and the fundamental efficiency and fairness of our free enterprise system. On average, one American farmer currently produces food and fiber for 129 people—a number that continues to increase. One of every three acres planted in this country produces crops for export. As a result of such efficiency and productivity, we in the United States can purchase our food with a smaller percentage of our disposable income than citizens of any other country. This enables us to use the remainder of our income to purchase other goods and services and to save and invest for the future. Together, these factors help the United States to maintain the highest standard of living in the world.

America's farmers are joined in their efforts by millions of other men and women who have, in a sense, put their hands to the plow in a competitive, market-based system that provides farmers with production supplies and related services, then processes, packages, and transports agricultural goods to retail markets across the United States and around the world. This system includes researchers in our Land Grant universities and private companies, who are developing ever-safer and more effective fertilizers, technologies, and pest control methods. It also includes specialists who ensure crop quality and manufacturers who transform raw materials into usable products, from breakfast cereals to grain-based alternative fuels. From wholesalers and distributors to local retailers, a vast network of men and women completes the partnership that begins in our rural communities and extends to our largest urban areas. For nearly 40 years now, we Americans have observed National Farm-City Week in celebration of this partnership and in grateful recognition of the more than 20 million Americans who make it work so well for all of us.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution

and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the week of November 20 through November 26, 1992, as National Farm-City Week. I encourage all Americans, in rural and urban communities alike, to join in recognizing the accomplishments of our farmers and all those hard-working individuals who cooperate in producing the abundance of agricultural goods that strengthen and enrich the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6478 of September 26, 1992

Child Health Day, 1992

By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation

On Child Health Day, we pause as a Nation to assess our children's state of health and to reaffirm our commitment to providing every young American with the best possible start in life, beginning with high quality prenatal care throughout pregnancy for expectant mothers and extending through each child's formative years.

When we examine history, one area of child health that has been marked by remarkable improvement is that of communicable childhood diseases. Over the years scientists and physicians have developed the means to protect children from diseases that, in the past, killed or disabled thousands of boys and girls. Through the practice of childhood immunization, the United States helped to lead the way in eliminating smallpox worldwide by 1980. Heartened by such progress, we aimed to rid the United States of another contagious and potentially devastating disease, measles, by 1990. Unfortunately, however, we remain short of that goal.

Despite the existence of effective childhood vaccines for measles and eight other contagious diseases, more than 50,000 cases of measles were reported in the United States from 1989 to 1991. Out of these cases, 160 persons died.

Such a tragic toll is all the more intolerable because it is preventable. Through a series of vaccinations beginning as early as birth, children can be protected against not only measles but also mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, hepatitis B, and *Haemophilus influenzae* Type B. While as many as 5 in 10 infants and toddlers are receiving all of their recommended childhood immunizations on time, thousands of other children remain at risk of contracting life-threatening or disabling illnesses.

To encourage parents to fulfill their responsibility to have their children immunized and to expand access to vaccinations, the Department of Health and Human Services is moving forward with a concerted immunization initiative. Building on several local pilot programs that were developed in 1991, this initiative will increase the number of vac-